

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00375 251527Z

66

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 /073 W

----- 123326

R 251510Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1831

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS DURBAN 0375

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJ: DURBAN PRESS COVERAGE OF NSSM 39

REF: CAPE TOWN 673 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE TWO DURBAN DAILY NEWSPAPERS ARE GIVING SUBSTANTIAL NEWS COVERAGE TO NSSM 39 BUT ONLY LIMITED EDITORIAL ATTENTION. NATAL MERCURY STATES NSSM REVEALS US PLANNERS AS PRAGMATICALLY BALANCING US INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONS WITH BLACK AFRICA AND AFRO-ASIAN OIL PRODUCERS. DAILY NEWS IN MAJOR ARTICLE EMPHASIZED DIVERSIONS BETWEEN "HAWKS" IN US WHO SEE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS HOPELESS AND SEEM PREPARED TO SACRIFICE INTERESTS IN WHITE STATES TO PROTECT INFLUENCE IN BLACK AFRICA AND "DOVES" WHO ARGUE US SHOULD ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL EVOLUTION THROUGH CONTACT WITH WHITE STATES. DAILY NEWS ALSO CHIDES SAG FOR NOT NOTICING "TILT" IN US POLICY IN 1970.

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WM SOLE EDITORIAL COMMENT TO DATE APPEARED IN NATAL

MERCURY OCTOBER 24. MERCURY EMPHASIZED MEASURES
ARTICULATED IN NSSM WHICH WOULD IMPROVE US/SA RELATIONS
AND ENCOURAGED SAG RAPIDLY TO REMOVE IRRITANTS BETWEEN
TWO COUNTRIES. IN LEFT-HANDED COMPLEMENT, MERCURY NOTES
SUCCESS OF US POLICY IN MAINTAINING FLEXIBILITY TOWARDS
SOUTH AFRICA WHILE MAINTAINING CREDIBILITY IN BLACK
AFRICA - CALLING THIS "CREDIBLE PERFORMANCE AT HUNTING
WITH HOUNDS AND RUNNING WITH HARES".

3. COMMENT: THOUGH DURBAN NEWSPAPERS ARE SENSATIONALIZING
NSSM 39, NO CLEARLY DEFINED REACTIONS APPEAR TO HAVE
EMERGED IN EITHER PAPERS OR AMONG PUBLIC. PUBLICATION
OF ONLY ONE EDITORIAL PROBABLY INDICATIVE AT PRESENT
OF INABILITY OF MOST PEOPLE TO DIGEST COMPLEX ISSUED
RAISED IN NSSM 39 AND DRAW CONSLUSIONS.
HOLMES

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NNN

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